



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
Phil 4:13

# The Witness

Newsletter of the Catholic Schools of Evangelisation  
December 2005



## Vision Of The School: An Evangelising Church Pat Kelly



We know that God loves every person in the whole world; every person is special, unique and cherished in his heart. This is the message of the scriptures— God loved us so much he sent his only son to die on the cross to save us from sin and offer us the free gift of salvation. We know this is true because we have experienced it in our own life.

God's love for us is at the heart of evangelisation, we have experienced God's love and mercy and forgiveness and we want to share it with others. And what is more important is that GOD wants us to share this Good News with others. In responding to the call to evangelise we are responding to what is dearest to the heart of God. God, our kind and loving Father, does not want anyone to be lost but he wants all to come to the knowledge of the truth of salvation found in his Son, Jesus.

The last act of Jesus was to commission his disciples to go out to the whole world to tell them the Good News and make new disciples. The first act of God the Holy Spirit, was to send the disciples out to obey Jesus' command on the wonderful day of Pentecost. Evangelisation was the first priority of the Church then and it is the first priority of the Church now. The teaching of Vatican 11, emphasized over and over

again by Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II, is that the Church exists to evangelise. For most people their experience of Church is the people of their own parish. If the Church is to be an evangelising Church then our parishes have to be evangelising parishes and this can only happen if our "ordinary parishioners" are evangelising disciples.

In response to this, the recent National Coordinators Meeting, re-focused on the call of the School to be an evangelisation and training resource for parishes.

We restated the *Vision* of the School :

### AN EVANGELISING CHURCH

We clarified our *Mission Statement*:

### TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF EVANGELISING PARISHES BY OFFERING A FORMATION PROGRAM WHICH:

- ◆ FORMS DISCIPLES
- ◆ TRAINS EVANGELISERS
- ◆ ESTABLISHES PARISH SCHOOLS OF EVANGELISATION.

Let us rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior is born to the world. True peace has descended from heaven. A blessed Christmas to all!

Continued on page 2

# The Witness

**The Witness** is published each April, August and December.

Editor: Anna Breheny  
11 Joyce Avenue  
Glen Waverley VIC 3150

**Tel/Fax: (03) 9561 9069**  
**Email: jandabreheny@iprimus.com.au**

**The Witness** is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne, Australia. The members of the National Executive Committee are:

- Bishop Joe Grech — Director
- Patrick Kelly — National Executive Officer
- Adrian Commadeur
- Len Forster — Treasurer
- Gary Stephens — Melbourne Coordinator
- Nan Deakin — Assistant Melbourne Coordinator
- Anna Breheny — Editor

as well as all School Diocesan Coordinators in Australia.

**Check out information about the School of Evangelisation on the CCR web page: [www.ccr.org.au](http://www.ccr.org.au)**

**Deadline for the next issue of The Witness 10 March 2006**

Post, email or fax your articles of an evangelical nature, personal testimonies, jokes, news items, photos, advertisements, competitions, Bible trivia etc. to the Editor at the above address.

The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

The School of Evangelisation acknowledges the efforts of all Diocesan Coordinators involved in the distribution of **The Witness**. May God bless you.



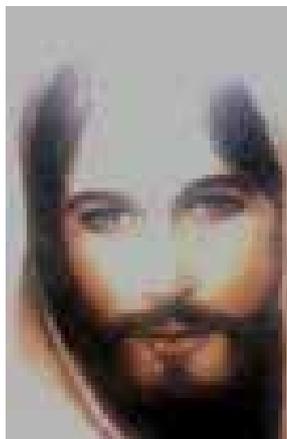
## Vision of the School: continued from page 1

These Parish Schools of Evangelisation would then reach out to other parishes to help them to establish Schools of Evangelisation. This multiplication of parish Schools was the original goal of the School. Diocesan Schools were formed as the first step in achieving this goal of parish Schools of Evangelisation throughout Australia. These Schools through the courses and evangelisation activities undertaken would, through the power of the Holy Spirit, change the mentality of a parish so that evangelisation would be an integral part of everything a parish does and every parishioner would live evangelisation as a natural part of being a disciple. The parish would reach out to those who don't know Jesus as each parishioner uses their gifts to evangelisation, in their own particular style, within an evangelising community.

Let's accept the challenge of a five year plan: Fifteen schools by 2007; Thirty by 2009; Sixty by 2011. Remember "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

## E-PRAYERS

by Pat Kelly



Many thanks to the thirty people who have joined our e-prayers team and who are faithfully interceding for the needs of the School. This is a wonderful ministry joining Jesus as THE intercessor sitting at the right hand of the Father praying for his beloved people.

At the moment we have people praying every day of the week but I would love to have

another circle of people covering every day of the month. It's not a big commitment to pray one day a month for the intentions of the School. The night before you will receive an email outlining our prayer intentions and how you pray is up to yourself. Decide today that you want to be part of this team and email me now.

Remember you can never out do God in generosity and whatever you do for him he rewards out of all proportions to our meagre efforts.

**Email: [pakelly@archis.com.au](mailto:pakelly@archis.com.au)**

# Schoolies Week with a Difference

Sandra Bishop

No doubt the media has informed you of some of the antics that schoolies get up to when they have a holiday together. Let me tell you how different it can be for SOE schoolies.

On many occasions I have enjoyed Adelaide Hills hospitality at the home of Carmen and Anton Sylvester – a real blessing, and none more so than I experienced earlier this year. So what did we get up to? Carmen and I felt a call to respond to Pope John Paul's dedication of this year to the Eucharist and so we worked on expanding teachings we had given in order to present a stand alone seminar about this Sacrament of Sacraments.

Did we SOE schoolies stay up all hours and get drunk? Well, yes we did. We certainly stayed up all hours learning how to master PowerPoint – and drunk? To be honest, yes we did get drunk from time to time, but not in the way that the young schoolies generally do. Our inebriation was the type experienced on Pentecost day – it was the consequence of knowing the God was "in it" with us, that we weren't doing it alone. Anton gave us a few tips on PowerPoint and was eager to keep me topped up with curry and a red. We also had advice all the way from Rome regarding the graphics we needed. We worked out how to put it together to make a presentation using all the technology available to us, we were over joyed, till we didn't save something and lost a whole session! Oh well, it was all a learning curve, I'm sure God was saying "Hey, girls, you haven't quite mastered that, I think you better do it again".

The end results of Schoolies Weeks are often quite negative. Our result has been positive – a seminar which has already been presented in Adelaide and Melbourne. It is adaptable in that it can be presented in one day; or a session a week for 6 weeks; or in a more reflective way over a

weekend. The Eucharist Seminar not only offers INFORMATION about the Sacrament, it equips Catholics with ANSWERS for the many questions often asked by people who do not fully appreciate this Sacrament of Sacraments.

More importantly during the seminar there are opportunities to EXPERIENCE the healing power and grace of the Eucharist. The Seminar has 4 main topics covered in six sessions:

## **The Eucharist In God's Plan of Salvation** in two sessions:

1<sup>st</sup> session: **Eucharist Prefigured in the Old Testament** - looking at some of the many events in the OT which are signs and symbols of the Eucharist.

2<sup>nd</sup> session: **Eucharist Prefigured, Promised and Fulfilled in the New Testament** - looking at some of the signs and symbols prefiguring and promising the Eucharist, this time in the NT and we will look closely at the Eucharistic fulfilment as instituted at the Last Supper.

## **The Eucharist - The Source And Summit Of Church Life** -

discussing how the Sacrament of the Eucharist is central to our Christian faith.

## **The Eucharist Celebrated** in two sessions:

1<sup>st</sup> session: **The Mass - A Sacrament, Sacrifice & Communion** worth celebrating.

2<sup>nd</sup> session: **Answering Objections, Clarifying Issues, Identifying Abuses** regarding the Mass.

## **The Eucharist Experienced** - by the first disciples, right through to our own experience.

The seminar is based on Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, various Church documents including: *Redemptoris Missio, Dies Domini, Ecclesia De Eucharistia, Redemptionis Sacramentum, Mane Nobiscum*

*Domini*, John Paul II's Holy Thursday letter to his priests: *Shaped By the Eucharist* and it also draws on the wisdom and experience of the early church Fathers and Saints through the ages.

The sessions are imparted in a creative, exciting and innovative way using PowerPoint presentations. The age old truths of our Faith meet today's technology and the result is a very dynamic and effective learning experience. We ask: Does your heart burn with a desire to better understand the amazing Mystery of the Eucharist? Have you ever doubted the true presence of Jesus, Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist? Would you like to be equipped to defend with boldness this Sacrament central to our Faith? If so, feel free to contact Carmen or myself. Perhaps the next time someone feels the urge to ask "Gee, Sandra you're always having holidays in Adelaide, what's the attraction?" it won't be necessary, as it will be evident that the 'attraction' is the blessing of spending time with a SOE Schoolie and her husband who share my love of the Blessed Sacrament and are eager to share that love with others.

[sbishop@21century.com.au](mailto:sbishop@21century.com.au)



## SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION—PROGRAM 2006

Date	Course Name	Location & Contact Details
9th—13th January	Formation of Disciples Youth Course	Glen Waverley VIC—John (03) 9561 9069
11th-12th Feb and 1st-2nd April	Formation of Evangelisers	Mill Park VIC—Gary (03) 8711 4690
1st—2nd April	New Life	Gladstone QLD—Colleen (07) 4972 3409

### A Weekend Journey To Emmaus—Bairnsdale

Gabrielle Morgan



On the weekend the “Emmaus” course was held at St. Mary’s, Bairnsdale, it was warm and sunny. A good weekend to spend on a boat on the Gippsland Lakes! I had the choice, but having attended the Evangelisation Team’s “New Life Course” last year, I was thirsting for

more and decided to forsake my boating time in preference to journeying to “Emmaus.”

The course was expertly conducted by Pat Kelly and Cathy McLure and helpers. About fifty people attended and we all participated in a friendly and communicative way. Some shared intimate life experiences, giving insight to others of the struggles people encounter in their lives, and the need of strong faith in the Holy Spirit to help overcome what often seem insurmountable difficulties.

Each session of the course was preceded by joyous song, dancing and prayer. People relaxed into an accepting, friendly, supportive group to listen, and learn the meaning of “Seven Images from the Bible,” “Seven Effects of the Word,” and “Seven Commandments of the Word.”

In one session we dressed

up in clothes that would have been worn by the Jews in the old testament times and played out a scene in the Synagogue acting the parts of the prophets. By doing this we gained a fuller understanding of the bible texts about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. With a great sensibility to the spirit, Fr. Denis O’ Bryan celebrated a special Emmaus Mass at the end of the weekend for us. We assembled outside in the sun before the Mass and Father Denis prepared us with a most interesting and enlightening talk about the meaning of Emmaus. The impact of his words engendered a deep reverence within us as we partook of the Eucharist.

In fitting conclusion to profound learning we were all presented with a Certificate of Attendance having completed the “Emmaus Course” by the School of Evangelisation.

### Moses Leadership Course

Anna Breheny



“I really haven’t got time to do a course right now, Lord, but if you want me to, I’ll do it.” These were the words I prayed as I wondered

whether I should take four days out of a very busy life to do the Moses Course. “Lord, wouldn’t it be nice, if I opened up my bible and saw the word ‘Moses’ there—then I’d know you want me to do it.” So I

opened it up at the New Testament, where I had my bookmark, and there was the word ‘Moses’, right in front of me!

So that’s how I came to do the course that the Lord knew I needed most at that time of my life.

All participants were taken on an incredible, eye-opening journey with Moses through the story of his life. We could personally relate to most aspects of Moses’ walk with God. Our hearts were touched by the beautiful friendship Moses had with God. We related to the

loneliness, limitations and difficulties he experienced in his walk as a leader. And we were all with him in his final moments, as he watched his people enter the Promised Land and turned alone to go up the mountain.

What a journey! What an experience! What a wonderful opportunity to share our stories with each other! What a gifted teacher Dexter was! And what fruit I imagine this course will bear in each participant in due time! Praise and glory be to our beautiful Lord!



## SOE CONTACTS

Title	Name	Phone
National Executive Officer	Pat Kelly pakelly@archis.com.au	(03) 5672 2772
Witness Editor	Anna Breheny	(03) 9561 9069
<b>DIOCESAN</b>	<b>CO-ORDINATORS</b>	
Vic - Melbourne	Gary Stephens	(03) 8711 4690
Vic - Sandhurst	Gerrie Boldrini- Wodonga Denise Ilott -Bendigo	(02) 6020 6082 (03) 5443 3885
Vic - Sale	Cathy McLure	(03) 5174 3001
ACT - Canberra	Les Roberts	(02) 6254 5977
NSW - Sydney/ Parramatta/Broken Bay	Lucy Grasso	(02) 9670 4440
NSW - Wagga Wagga	Kay Judd	(02) 6933 1444
NSW - Wollongong	Paul Farrugia	(02) 4297 1570
QLD - Brisbane	Elmer Guerra	(07) 3345 8430
SA - Adelaide	Carmen Sylvester	(08) 8339 2573

### The Witness

#### Donations Acknowledged

The following donations have been received and are acknowledged with many thanks.

Gina Pulella (Italian Eucharistic Prayer Group)	100.00
G & A Vitale	30.00
Pymble Parish	30.00

TOTAL 160.00

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7).*

**Further Donations, made payable to:  
School of Catholic Evangelisation  
and sent to:  
The Treasurer  
22A Somerset Court  
Blackburn South VIC 3130**

**THE SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION  
THANKS YOU WITH GREAT  
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR**

## EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

An excellent series of talks about the Catholic faith are available on video or DVD to be used in small groups. They are great for people who want to better understand the Church, the Mass, Sacraments, Mary and the Saints, etc. For those relatively new to the Catholic Church or those who have not had a good grounding, these talks really fill in all the gaps

and will give them a deep appreciation of the Church. They will also equip people with answers for those many tricky questions we are often asked by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

The talks can be presented once a week for eight weeks on either TV or on a screen using a data projector. The presentation can then be followed by

discussion in small groups. Participants' manuals are also available.

Originally put together as a follow up to an Alpha program, they are part of the CAFÉ series but can be used independently.

They can be purchased from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre, Melbourne, Phone (03) 96292544

## Gideon's Army

Patricia Carlin

God has always been part of my life or so I thought, but it was not until I did a Life in the Spirit Seminar in September 1999 that I started to realise I had not grown much at all spiritually through the years. I became very discontented and I knew I wanted to make some changes in my life. I knew right there and then I had to get serious about God. I had to take time to learn everything about how Jesus fits into my life and what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

God put a real desire in me to change, I knew I could not do it on my own but I had to take some initiative and put in some effort. I think I would be speaking for most people who have attended any of the School of Evangelisation courses in saying, what a golden opportunity we have to learn the Word of God in a simple but

effective manner.

There are many challenges and blessings through the high standard of teachings. The dynamics played out by the team and participants bring about a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. Through the friendliness and professionalism of the team, everyone who attends any of the schools feels at ease and very eager to participate in all the activities given.

So when I received a letter from the School of Evangelisation outlining their plans for the future and of their proposal of starting up Gideon's Army, a wave of excitement went right through me, I could not wait to join God's Army! It was a way of saying thanks to the very dedicated team of leaders God has chosen to teach us His Word in a way we can understand, and to

God for the many blessing He gives us.

I was just as excited when I received a certificate as a member of Gideon's Army and a letter to say Bishop Joe Grech is offering each month, a Mass for the intentions of all Gideon's Soldiers. How good is that!!

I would just like to quote a line from a song:

*"Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands, no feet on earth but  
yours..."*

So if you have been thinking about joining and have not done it yet – do it today and we can all march together for God in Gideon's Army to help spread the Word and Love of God to everyone who is searching and we can sing as we go – *we are in God's army now...*

Thank you to  
all existing  
members—  
May God bless  
you abundantly

# Be a soldier for God

\$100  
annual  
subscription



**Would you consider becoming a new member of the Gideon's Army appeal?  
A further 220 'soldiers' are very much needed very soon.**

**All new Gideon's Army members will receive:**

- **A monthly Mass offered up for you by Bishop Joe Grech**
- **A Membership Certificate**
- **A bi-annual Gideon's Army newsletter**
- **A beautiful prayer card with six points of the Kerygma**
- **We're working on more benefits!**

**See page 11 to register**

## CCR NEWS—contact CCR Centre on 9629 2544 to register

### January 2006 Conference

The annual Conference conducted by CCR Melbourne will be a retreat held from 16—20 January, at Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, East Brunswick. Bishop Colin Campbell from New Zealand will be the guest speaker. The theme will be *The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'*. Cost is \$80 and places are limited. So call the CCR centre to register, now.

### Rome Pilgrimage

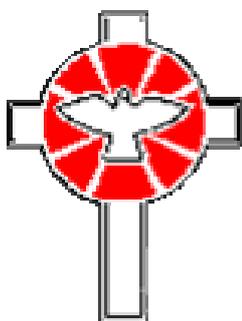
Pope Benedict has called together the new ecclesial movements to Rome in June 2006 for Pentecost celebrations.

1st June Departing Australia  
3rd June Pentecost Vigil  
4th June CCR Rally  
5-9 June Open CCR Conference  
9-11 June International Leaders' Colloquium  
Lodge \$100 with the CCR Centre to book your place

### Training Sessions for Leaders

Theme: *Holiness and Worship*  
At Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, East Brunswick.

Dates: 15, 22, 29th March and 5th April 2006



## Check out the CCR Website

[www.ccr.org.au](http://www.ccr.org.au)

### After Emmaus—Wagga Wagga

Emily McIntyre

The Church hall was familiar, it had been my Church hall for over fifteen years, but for one weekend it was transformed. It became the road to Emmaus.

The School of Evangelisation's Emmaus School provided Catholics from all walks of life the opportunity to learn about the promise of Jesus in a much more profound way.

For those of us present, we embarked upon the journey to Emmaus to learn more about the scriptures and ourselves. And we were not disappointed. Like the disciples who walked along that now famous road, we had all experienced a personal Emmaus in our lives when we were disappointed in Jesus.

We had been blind and prevented in some way, from seeing Jesus as he really is. Words

cannot explain the fire in our own hearts now that we have our eyes focussed intently on our Lord.

We are all indebted to the speakers over the course of that weekend that, with the Holy Spirit working through them, challenged what we knew about Jesus as well as teaching us to depend entirely on God. Though our prayers may not be answered as soon as we want them to be, or even how we want them to be, God has not deserted us. He knows each of us intimately, and therefore he knows what is best for each of us individually.

For myself, the unworthy servant of the Lord that I am, I am more enthusiastic about evangelisation than ever before. At twenty years young, I have my whole life ahead of me to bring God's Word to those who do not know him, or love him as I do. And I

feel called now, like never before, to share this with the young people in our Church.

For many of us, the Emmaus School has changed us, perhaps only a little, perhaps a lot. We have a renewed and refreshed faith, and have been enriched by sharing this journey with those who completed this course with us and we are indebted to the team that ran this weekend.

Most importantly, we have now re-witnessed Jesus Christ, our Saviour, in all his glory and like the disciples we have returned to our own Jerusalem to spread the Word.



# An Exam and a Proposal—A Personal Testimony Jivraj Nazareth

I had no vacation planned for the Christmas break of 2002, the company director's on-the-spot decision to close the office taking us all by surprise. But with nothing else going on I browsed the Internet, found that SOE was running a "John" course and enrolled in it without great enthusiasm. I remember doing it for the same reason that you eat your veggies: you may not care for the taste but expect that the practice will keep you in good health.

The course started uneventfully for me. The teachings were well-presented, as I had expected, and the dynamics true to the nature of the School. But I could find nothing new in the material; nothing seemed to catch fire from within. I had heard it all before. "The veggies have been too long in the fridge", I thought. As the day proceeded, however, a subtle change occurred: While my mind stayed alert and disengaged, I could feel another part of me being drawn into the proceedings.

Then it happened. We were into the second day and a group was presenting a scene: Jesus was calling people to be His disciples. Unlike those in the Gospels, however, these came up with any number of reasons why they weren't ready as yet to follow the Lord: business commitments, prior appointments, pressing engagements, the ordinary demands of life. Watching this scene and the parade of excuses being put forward, I was engulfed by a feeling of overwhelming sadness. It seemed to come from the depths, from a place I hardly knew. Gradually I broke into sobs, muffled at first but then out loud.

My mind, looking on with detachment, was thinking: "When you get such an emotional reaction from a relatively mundane scene rendered by, to put it politely, a bunch of amateur actors, you've definitely got a serious problem." But what was it that had caused this overpowering sense of loss? Could it be that this scene was an enactment of my own life? Was

there a part of me that wanted desperately to follow the Master, but was not ready to commit --- and was now at the point of heart-break?

As the day progressed, my composure returned, but the questions kept coming. Picking up on incidental points in the teachings, my thoughts raced off madly in all directions. Finally I decided to speak up, asking if there was time for some questions to be addressed, and was told, "There is someone coming now who will answer all your questions." This happened towards the end of a teaching and the next thing I saw was that the Blessed Sacrament was brought in!

"Maybe so", I reflected disappointedly, "but surely God works through human intermediaries. There is nothing more for me here." But within the space of a few minutes, I sensed something profound happening to my mind. I watched as my awareness gradually expanded. I seemed to have been raised to a great intellectual height, a point of vantage from where anything and everything can be understood. Under this sharpening of perception all the doubts that had previously assailed me grew smaller and smaller. As they receded into the distance, the ticking in my brain also slowed down and came to a halt.

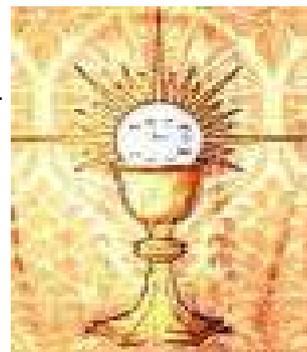
Then the questions came. This time, it was not I who was asking them. They were being addressed to me from a sheet of paper entitled "Entrance Exam: The School of Discipleship". The first question was "Have I decided to accept Jesus as my only Master, renouncing allegiance to any others who contradict His teaching?" Normally I would have tried giving a nuanced answer to this question, but there were only two boxes marked "Yes" and "No". As I rummaged through my mental filing cabinet for the right answer, I could feel a stirring within saying, "There is no right answer. Just pick the box you want to". Still I hesitated. "I have to get this right", I thought.

The other voice insisted, "No, you don't have to. Just pick the one you want to. It's a simple question." With this reassurance it finally dawned on me that something else within my chaotic self was being engaged: not my mind with its newfound powers, but my will. After a few moments, I ticked a box.

The other three questions came easily. I ticked the boxes, signed and dated the paper and put my pen down. Nothing extraordinary had happened, yet I felt an enormous sense of drama. Although it seemed all the time in the world, I had finished the Entrance Exam in less than 15 seconds. I looked around the room. Everything looked normal. No angels. No harps. No bells or choruses. Just some other people immersed in thought, some obviously having difficulty with the Exam!

This was the highlight of the course for me. Everything else that followed was simply a commentary.

Looking back over this incident after a few years, I understand better now the significance of what had happened. God had proposed to me and I had accepted. Without my knowing it, He had been preparing me through the teachings and, when the time was right, in full public view and in total privacy, He had popped the question. This union would be one that would not end in death but would continue through eternity. Naturally, all relationships have their moments of the sublime interspersed with long stretches of the ordinary, and the passage of time has once again brought me down to earth. But I am less inclined now to dismiss the traditional teachings of the Church as veggies gone stale, for I remember in this incident the Spirit of the One who can make all things new.



## Young People in the Bible Course—Philip Island

Alice Chong-Gum

Hi, my name is Alice, I am 19yrs old and had never been to something like this. However, I had no expectations, only the excitement of going away for the weekend-to Phillip Island mind you!

I arrived along with the mob and instantly felt a sense of relaxation. Don't know why-just did.

The camp started almost immediately. We all met Dexter, who for the next two days, was to be our lecturer. Dexter said something special: "Open your hearts.....not your mind!"

I had to focus and I chose to open my heart. We all huddled together like a close-knit family and together we began our journey.....

Dexter chose small but meaningful stories from the Bible. He then dissected them with great emphasis on "youth". He did not bore us reading word for word. He enthusiastically explained the underlying meaning of each and every story. His incredible ability to

connect with me made me listen, only because I wanted to. No



obligation, therefore I was happy as can be!

Not to say everything went smoothly- (I wish) There were moments when I felt lost and confused. It was then I questioned my reason for being there. Why am I here???? I'd ask myself.

Then it hit me. I was there for me to be with God.

Yeah, it's corny, but it's the truth. Something special lit up inside and, despite being miles away from home, I felt weirdly secure?!

Before the trip-I was a Catholic being a Catholic, just to be a Catholic.

That's it.

Towards the end-I realised there was more to it than just being one. I was to live as one.....Live the word of the Lord.

One choice was handed over to each and every young individual: Do you want to be an evangelist?

I proudly said YES.

I choose to be an evangelist and live my life in the way the Lord God has set out for me. It isn't too complicated, just have belief and persistence and I'll do no wrong.

It was intense. It was cool. Try it out-you'll never look back!

## Mary—Letter of Jesus

Cathy McLure

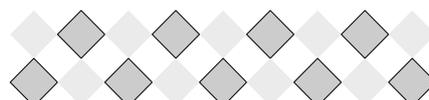


This course presented in Melbourne by Dexter Reyes from Mexico was a wonderful experience. Along with the excellent teaching we had many personal appearances of 'Mary' and other special 'guests' which really helped me to see her as a woman like myself, a fellow disciple, but one that set a perfect model for me to try and imitate. Through it all I grew to love her more.

Over the years I have encountered many extremes in Marian devotion from people who almost place Mary above Jesus to those who discard her altogether. I have found this very disconcerting and left me hesitant about just how I

should regard Mary. This course was so balanced and so scripture based that it gave me a greater confidence of where her rightful place is and what sort of devotion she herself would want from us.

It was also good to look at some common objections to Mary and how to find answers from the scriptures with which to answer those objections when challenged. One comment that touched me was that Mary is mother to all Christians whether they acknowledge her or not. What a beautiful mother we have.



## Threads of Gold

The Sale Diocese was once again blessed to be able to hold a new course in October from the tenth to the fourteenth. Fourteen spiritually hungry participants were lead through the History of Salvation by a faithful team who were enthusiastic to feed God's people. The following is the experience of one of the participants.

How grateful I am to our Lord for inspiring me to do the course 'History of Salvation' at the Retreat Centre at Cowwarr in October. I love little country towns at any time but in spring and with beautiful weather as we were blessed with made these four days a memorable experience.

It was my first venture of stepping out again after a long period away from the renewal due to some major events in my life and I must say it felt good to be back among brothers and sisters on fire for the Lord.

What a special treat the Lord gave us with the little Church of St. Brigid's which was built in the 1800s. It was here that John Cooney led us through Communion Services and Fr. Tim McInnes celebrated Mass for us and also generously gave of his time to hear our confession on the last day of the course so we could go home in complete harmony with God and

ourselves.

I had the luxury of a single room with en-suite in the parish house where seven of us who travelled from a distance were accommodated. This was for me a very pleasant experience. We shared our food and also shared in preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner. On Wednesday night the seven of us went to the Railway Hotel in Heyfield to dine and wine



and it was a most enjoyable outing. I can highly recommend the meals of this homely country pub. Our days ended with the recitation of the Rosary and some sharing.

One particular clear starry night brought God and history closer to our modern day, when it reminded me of God's promise to His most faithful Patriarch, Abraham. I found the teachings of these four days excellent. I bow before God and His faithful servants who tirelessly have prepared for us these four days of History mingled with fellowship, fun and music. I am sure we can all work for some time on the handouts

which were presented with amusing illustrations. The dynamics were, as always, fun and they helped to loosen up the intensity of body and mind.

In these four days history was continued and the 'Golden Thread' of God's love was woven through each one of us binding us together for eternity. While looking at my brothers and sisters I could see how they have been woven into my own tapestry of life forming history together.

On Monday after the week at Cowwarr I spent some time at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne and I also visited and admired the Greek Treasures. I saw a strong link with my four days' journey through the 'History of Salvation', my own immigration history and then I came face to face with eight thousand years of Greek history.

I have learned much in the days of the course about God, His people and their History but also I have taken with me a better understanding of the important part each one of us has in making history in our own time and place where God has put us. May God bless us and bind us together in peace and harmony, always with the thread of gold which is God's love.

## Emmaus—South Australia

Carmen Sylvester



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October a small number of people came to Christ the King church hall to participate in the second Emmaus Course presented in Adelaide

It was a matter of quality participants and not quantity but

like always in the SOE courses the Holy Spirit showed up in a powerful way and the weekend was a tremendous blessing for all who headed the call to come and journey with us on the walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

The blessings flowed to the team in a special way and we were especially blessed to have Patrick Kelly in our midst to lead this motley crew of The People of Israel. Our Celebrant for the Emmaus Supper was a wonderful young

priest Fr My Tran from Vietnam who freely shared his life experience and touched the hearts of all of us.

Now we await the arrival of Malcolm Lock from Melbourne who will be our guest speaker at the Holy Spirit Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> December being held at Lockleys. No doubt this will be a great preparation for Christmas as we endeavour to rekindle the Holy Spirit fire in the hearts of all who choose to join us for the day.

# Celebrating "Emmanuel" in the marketplace

Carmen Sylvester

The feast of Christ the King marks the end of the Liturgical year for the church. For the School of Evangelisation in Adelaide it is always an exciting day to take the name of Christ Our King and proclaim it loud and clear in the busiest thoroughfare, The Rundle Mall.

This year no rain, no wind, no cold but a glorious day of 23 degrees, was our special blessing from above. The line-up of artists was, to say the least, FANTASTIC!



everyone who was involved in making this day such a great success but it would be remiss of me not to mention the Cute Factor. These were the children from St Luke's Parish in the south of Adelaide, who captured the hearts of all who watched them process around the stage as the Christmas Story Narrative was being proclaimed and then come to sit around the manger for the whole duration of the carols segment. 'Angelic' is certainly the word to describe them.



More fantastic was our illustrious MC, Geoff Wallace, who is not only an ex-participant of the school and a great MC, but also a great evangeliser. He was spied just before the concert praying with a passer-by who wanted to know first about what was going down with all the activity around the stage and then decided he wanted to know more about Jesus. There was no holding Geoff back when he got the microphone. No passer-by was left with any doubt that Christmas was all about Christ and the birth of our Saviour.

Impossible to thank

Our clowns were there again this year, not just clowning about, but also doing a mighty work



of evangelisation. The children were delighted to receive Christmas bags full of goodies, all with a Christian Christmas message. Once again we were blessed with generous supporters of Celebrate Emmanuel who donated all these goodies.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who worked so hard in getting this event off the ground. We would like to acknowledge those people who were so generous in their monetary donations, without which this event would not be possible. As you can imagine a public concert has to be of



the highest standard and equipment such as staging and sound system all cost a considerable amount of money.

I'd like to encourage the Adelaide participants especially to consider making a donation towards Celebrate Emmanuel 2006. All donations small and great are humbly accepted. They can be sent to "Celebrate Emmanuel" 23 Charlick Rd, Crafrers West, SA 5152.

May each and everyone experience the wonder and blessings of Emmanuel this Christmas Season.

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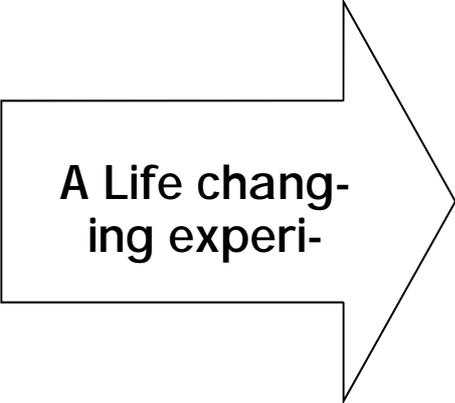
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